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Letter dated 25 February 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a letter dated 21 January 2014 from Catherine Ashton, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union and Vice-President of the European Commission.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) authorized the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic (MISCA) for an initial period of 12 months with effect from 5 December 2013, with a view to contributing, in particular, to the protection of civilians, the restoration of security and public order, the stabilization of the country and the restoration of State authority.

That resolution also authorized French forces in the Central African Republic to take all necessary measures to support MISCA, for a temporary period and within the limits of their capacities and areas of deployment.

I am pleased to inform you that the Council of the European Union agreed, on 20 January, on its contribution to the efforts conducted by the international community under the auspices of the United Nations to stabilize the security situation in the Central African Republic. This would take the form of a military operation to contribute to the protection of civilians, in coordination with the French forces and the African Union.

This decision by the Council of the European Union confirms the readiness of the European Union to contribute to the stabilization of the Central African Republic, as expressed by heads of State and Government during the European Council meeting held on 19 and 20 December 2013.

A mandate by the Security Council is necessary to allow for the adoption of a decision to establish an operation by the Council of the European Union and therefore the deployment of the European Union force. I would therefore be grateful if the Security Council could adopt a resolution providing the European Union force with an appropriate mandate and including a provision authorizing it to use all necessary means to accomplish its mandate. It would also be most helpful if the Security Council could invite the authorities of the Central African Republic to conclude with the European Union an agreement on the status of the force, as well with the authorities of the neighbouring countries with a view to facilitating the transit of force elements throughout their territories.

Finally, at the end of the European Union operation, which is scheduled to last six months, the force would carry out its disengagement, during which it would require authorization to continue to fulfil its functions relating to the protection of civilians.

The early adoption of a resolution to this effect would be greatly appreciated and would allow for preparations for the European Union operation to proceed without delay.

Rest assured that the operation, if authorized by the Security Council, would act in very close cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union and the French forces.

(*Signed*) Catherine **Ashton**